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Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 484, AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S REVENUE PLAN.

cc:

State Senator Toni Boucher  
State Representative Peggy Reeves  
State Representative John Hetherington

Subject: Governor Rell's proposal to use State Energy funds to balance the State Budget.

We ask you to reject Governor Rell's proposal to reduce the State's budget deficit by utilizing money from the CT Clean Energy (CCEF) and Energy Efficiency (CEEFF) Funds—money dedicated to supporting energy efficiency, clean energy and weatherization efforts throughout Connecticut.

The Wilton Energy Commission, established by the town's Board of Selectmen in 2007, voted at our monthly meeting on Thursday February 4<sup>th</sup> to request that our State Senator and Representatives vigorously oppose such a move.

These Funds are the foundation for all clean energy and energy efficiency programs in the State. Their funding comes from the system benefits charge on each electric bill, a charge created specifically to support clean energy and energy efficiency. The proposed plan would divert monies for at least ten (10) years for a revenue stream to fund borrowing.

Connecticut is one of the highest cost energy states in the country. The Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funds provide indispensable assistance that allows municipal, commercial and residential customers to lower their energy bills and source clean energy. The Funds also provide critical support for the fledgling but growing green energy industry—and the jobs that industry creates.

Our best case for protecting the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funds is to demonstrate the significant impact they have made in Wilton:

- Wilton customers of C.L.&P. received \$287,427 from the CEEF alone in 2008. Since this is an investment in energy efficiency, the savings continue year after year.
- We have reduced the electrical consumption of our school and municipal facilities by more than 12% since 2007, resulting in savings of over \$144,758. The high efficiency relamping of all municipal and school

buildings and the CEEF-funded installation of occupancy sensors in the schools contributed to this result.

- The renovation of Wilton High School received \$86,000 from the CEEF for energy saving systems and products. These will lower the school's energy costs and result in savings year after year.
- The CCEF designated Wilton a Clean Energy Community for our commitment to source 20% of our power from clean generation by 2010.
- Wilton will also receive a five (5) Kw Solar system, valued at \$35,000, from the CCEF to be installed on the roof of Wilton High School. This will be supplemented by an additional fifteen (15) Kw Solar array donated by a supporter and partially funded by the CCEF. Together they generate enough power for four homes! We will also receive software developed by the CCEF that will supplement the Wilton Science Curriculum.
- Finally, Wilton retained an energy consultant last year to audit the municipal buildings and library and identify energy saving investment opportunities. Many would qualify for rebates and funding from the CEEF. It is unlikely in this economic environment that the town can move ahead with these investments without CEEF funding.

In summary, CCEF and CEEF programs have a significant financial and environmental impact on Wilton. The Wilton Energy Commission urges you to do all that you can to ensure that they remain fully funded.

Respectfully,

The Wilton Energy Commission